



OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
351 North Mountain View Avenue, Third Floor ♦ San Bernardino, CA 92415-0010  
(909) 387-9146 ♦ Fax (909) 387-6228

TRUDY RAYMUNDO  
Public Health Director

MAXWELL OHIKHUARE, M.D.  
Health Officer

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CONTACT: Stacey A. Davis, MPH  
Epidemiologist  
(800) 722-4794

## Cyclosporiasis

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) urges medical providers to specifically request Cyclospora testing. Cryptosporidiosis is an intestinal illness caused by the microscopic parasite Cyclospora cayetanensis. To date in 2014, more than 10 different states in various parts of the country have notified Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of cases of cyclosporiasis. The majority of illness onset dates have been since mid-May, with the bulk in June and some in July. Most of the reported cases have been in residents of Texas. Currently, there is no increase of cases in California; however clinicians may not be requesting Cyclospora testing. In most United States laboratories, Cyclospora testing is not routine when stool is tested for parasites.

In the United States, foodborne outbreaks of cyclosporiasis have been linked to various types of imported fresh produce. Cyclospora is spread by people ingesting something - such as food or water - that was contaminated with feces. Its symptoms include loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea (which can last 1-2 weeks).

### Recommendations for Medical Providers:

- Consider Cyclospora as a potential cause of prolonged diarrheal illness, particularly in patients with a history of recent travel to Cyclospora-endemic areas.
- Specifically request testing for Cyclospora when symptoms are present.
- Request multiple stool samples (at least 3) collected on different days as persons might not shed enough oocysts in their stool to be readily detectable by laboratory examinations, including those who are symptomatic.
- Laboratories should use sensitive recovery methods (concentration procedures) and detection methods that highlight Cyclospora oocysts. The oocysts can be stained with modified acid-fast or modified ("hot") safranin techniques.
- Utilize Molecular diagnostic methods, such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) analysis to look for parasite's DNA in the stool.

For additional resources on testing and treatment recommendations visit <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/cyclosporiasis/> or contact the Communicable Disease Section at 1-800-722-4794. Continuous health information can be found on the Communicable Disease Section Facebook page at <http://www.facebook/CommunicableDiseaseSection>.

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